

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INRE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1151

S E C R E T MOSCOW 3848

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PARM, US, UR

SUBJ: TTBT/PNE NEGOTIATIONS: CLARIFICATION OF INSTRUCTIONS  
ROUND VI - TTBT/PNE DELEGATION MESSAGE NO. 126

REF: STATE 59199

1. DELEGATION REQUESTS CLARIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS PARA 3  
REFTEL. IF DELEGATION TELLS SOVIETS THAT US IS WILLING TO  
CONSIDER AGGREGATE YIELD LIMIT HIGHER THAN 1,000 KILOTONS,  
SHOULD NEW SLIFER PLACEMENT RULES GIVEN SUBPARAS 3(A) AD  
3(B) REFTEL BE APPLIED TO:

(A) ALL GROUP EXPLOSION, REGARDLESS OF AGGREGATE  
YIELD UP TO AGREED LIMIT, OR

(B) ALL GROUP EXPLOSIONS WITH AGGREGATE YIELDS BETWEEN  
1,000 KILOTONS AND THE AGREED AGGREGATE YIELD LIMIT?

2. IF SUBPARA 1(A) ABOVE IS TO BE REQUIRED, WHAT RATIONALE  
SHOULD BE USED WITH SOVIETS TO SUPPORT THE CHANGE IN SLIFER  
PLACEMENT FOR AGGREGATE YIELDS BELOW 1,000 KILOTONS?

3. FOR BOTH SUBPARAS 1(A) AND 1(B), WHY ARE MORE  
ACCURATE YIELD MEASUREMENTS FOR INDIVIDUAL YIELDS BELOW  
50 KILOTONS REQUIRED WHEN AGGREGATE YIELDS EXCEED  
1,000 KILOTONS? DELEGATION UNDERSTANDING IS THAT MAJOR  
REASONS FOR LIMITING AGGREGATE YIELD ARE: (A) UNCERTAINTY

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IN TELESEISMIC YIELD DETERMINATION, AND (B) INABILITY

TO QUANTIFY EFFECTIVENESS OF LOCAL SEISMIC NET. AS ANNOUNCED AGGREGATE YIELD INCREASES, YIELD OF COLLATERAL EVENT COULD BE INCREASED WITHOUT MATERIALLY AFFECTING RISK OF EXCESSIVE TELESEISMIC YIELD DETERMINATION. IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT EVEN VERY ACCURATE DETERMINATION OF AGGREGATE YIELD OF ANNOUNCED GROUP BY SLIFER WOULD MATERIALLY AFFECT THIS PROBLEM. MOTIVATION FOR MORE ACCURATE DETERMINATION OF YIELD OF INDIVIDUAL LOW-YIELD EXPLOSIONS BY SLIFER SEEMS DIRECTED ONLY AT SCENARIO INVOLVING VERY LARGE NUMBER (SAY 30) OF LOW-YIELD PNES WHICH DOES NOT APPEAR VERY CREDIBLE (MOSCOW 1753, STATE 230949). IMPROVEMENT IN LOW-YIELD PERFORMANCE OF SLIFER FOR AGGREGATE YIELDS ABOVE 1,000 KILOTONS TO A LEVEL SIGNIFICANTLY BETTER THAN TELESEISMIC ERROR APPEARS DIFFICULT TO DEFEND TECHNICALLY.

4. CHANGING SLIFER SPACING AND CANISTER LENGTH PROVISIONS WOULD NOT APPEAR TO OFFER MATERIAL MODERATION OF INCREASED RISK OF UNDETECTED COLLATERAL EXPLOSION AT AGGREGATE YIELDS ABOVE 1 MEGATON, AND WE CAN EXPECT SOVIETS TO RECOGNIZE THAT FACT. THEREFORE, OFFERING CONCESSION (HIGHER AGGREGATE YIELD LIMIT) IN EXCHANGE FOR NEW SLIFER/CANSISTER PROVISIONS, WITHOUT CLEAR AND VALID TECHNICAL RATIONALE FOR REQUIRING CHANGE IN SLIFER/CANISTER PROVISIONS, WILL ALMOST SURELY BE REGARDED BY SOVIETS AS FURTHER CONFIRMATION OF FEARS THAT US IS EMPHASIZING INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING CAPABILITIES. THIS PROBLEM WOULD BE AMPLIFIED BY CHANGE IN SLIFER/CANISTER PROVISIONS AT ALL YIELDS (ALTERNATIVE (A) IN PARA 1, ABOVE).

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## Message Attributes

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